not change with respect to a change in prices. Since, nearly 61 per cent consumption of kerosene is for lighting, there will not be much impact of-a price change on kerosene demand A one per cent increase in kerosene price would reduce kerosene demand for heating by 0.23 per cent and overall kerosene demand by 0.11 per cent. Thus, kerosene demand is relatively price inelastic. With increase in kerosene price, some rural households may shift to other non-commercial fuels, such as wood, crop waste, dung cake, etc. In urban areas people would shift from kerosene to LPG. However, if the change in kerosene prices is gradual and not in two or three years, kerosene demand would not go down much.

10. The distribution of kerosene to households, should follow a similar methodology as followed in the case of PDS of grains. All households possessing APL cards should purchase kerosene at the market price (as economic cost to the Government) and subsidized PDS kerosene should only be made available to people with BPL, Annapuma, Antyodaya cards, etc. only.

11. PDS kerosene is supplied for fishing in some coastal States. Kerala provide a sizeable amount of kerosene to fishing community from their PDS allocation. Kerosene requirement for fishing may be supplied at non-PDS price.

12. Taking out APL card holders from the purview of subsidies, PDS kerosene would amount ta-41.2 per cent savings of current kerosene subsidy. If the leakage is controlled this saving can give enough scope to Government to keep subsidized kerosene price for BPL families at lower level.

Appointment of CMD in ITDC

1486. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ITDC is still heading without a full time CMD and if so, the reasons therefor and since when the regular post is lying vacant in ITDC;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a search committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary had recommended a few names for appointment of CMD;

(c) whether it is a fact that the recommendation has not been accepted by the Government; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The post of full time CMD, ITDC has been lying vacant since 01.10.1997 and it has been held as an additional charge by other officers. The reasons for this vacancy were on account of a court case filled by the last regular appointee as well as the rejection by the Government of the panels recommended by the Search Committee set up subsequently.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The recommended panel, consisting of two candidates, were not found suitable.

Tourist Inflow

1487. SHRIMATI VANGAGEETHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tourist inflows to India have registered a 15 per cent growth in the first nine months of 2005;

(b) if so, the details of such tourist inflows available with Government from different countries; and

(c) the foreign exchange earned for the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKACHOWDHURY):(a)Asperthe estimates prepared by Ministry of Tourism, foreign tourist arrivals to India during January-September, 2005 have been about 2.64 million compared to 2.29 million during the same period last year, showing a growth of 15.2%.

(b) Nationality-wise details of foreign tourist arrivals to India are available only for the first five months of the year 2005. Details of arrivals